



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Job Service Workforce Centers Reorganizing To Improve Service

(Helena) --- The Montana Department of Labor and Industry today announced the reorganization of local Job Service Workforce Centers' upper-level management to better serve the region. This action implements a first phase to better prepare the State's Workforce Centers for the future.

"In the first phase, current managers and assistant managers will have the opportunity to compete for one of the new five Regional Director positions," Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly said. "Despite the rumors, we are not closing up shop. In fact, by reorganizing our internal labor we move toward improving our pipeline of services that extend beyond the geographic limitations of our local offices."

Regional Directors will have a greater scope of responsibility and be able to marshal resources more quickly within the region to react to economic conditions, layoffs, local business needs, and new start-up business concerns in the local communities in the region.

"We carefully studied our county populations, number of available jobs, number of registered businesses, placement of MACO districts, measured economic similarities and drew upon the existing economic boundaries determined by the Department of Commerce," Workforce Service Division Administrator Ingrid Childress said.

Regions are defined as:

Region 1: Lincoln, Sanders, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Flathead and Lake

Region 2: Granite, Powell, Lewis and Clark, Meagher, Broadwater, Jefferson, Silver Bow, Deer Lodge, Beaverhead, Madison and Gallatin

Region 3: Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Pondera, Teton, Choteau, Cascade

Region 4: Judith Basin, Fergus, Petroleum, Wheatland, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Park, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, Carbon, Yellowstone, Bighorn,

Region 5: Valley, Daniels, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Rosebud, Custer, Fallon, Treasure, Powder River, Carter.

(more)

Office managers and assistant managers who are not successful in the application process will have opportunities to fill other supervisory roles in offices around the state. Supervisory positions will focus primarily on improving local service delivery.

The second phase of the project is improvement of existing skills of the local office staff by working closely with higher education, economic development and labor market driving forces that affect business development. Staff will also receive training in career assessment and counseling, testing procedures and intensive case management. New services will include partnerships with the Business Expansion And Retention (BEAR) program to better assess needs for business growth.

“It’s imperative that we grow to meet not only our current labor force needs, but those of the future,” Kelly said.

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